

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

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OMB-01 TRSE-00 /087 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6810

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

COMUSMACTHAI

DAO/SAIGON/AOSOP-OR

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS

SUBJ: VIET-NAM CEASE-FIRE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT, AUGUST 29-SEP 4, 1973

SUMMARY: IN MR 1, VIOLATIONS INCREASED TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL SINCE CEASE-FIRE II, LARGELY AS A RESULT OF NVA/VC EFFORTS TO PREVENT GVN/ARVN CONSOLIDATION OF POSITIONS ON ITS WESTERN FLANK. IN MR 2, THE SITUATION CHANGED LITTLE, WITH HOSTILITIES CONTINUING AT ABOUT THE SAME INCIDENCE AND INTENSITY AND IN THE ACCUSTOMED AREAS-- BINH DINH AND KONTUM. THE WEEK'S MAJOR ENGAGEMENT WAS IN KONTUM, BUT IT DID NOT PREVENT COMPLETION OF THE UNIT ROTATION AT TRUNG NGHIA. IN MR 3, THE SITUATION WAS ALSO LITTLE CHANGED. IN MR 4, THE LOCUS OF ACTIVITY SHIFTED DURING THE WEEK FROM DINH TUONG TO THE SOUTHERN DELTA PROVINCES OF CHUONG THIEN, PHONG DINH, AND AN XUYEN. THE HUNGARIANS, FOLLOWED BY THE POLES, HAVE WITHDRAWN FROM FIVE SUB-REGIONAL ICCS SITES IN AN ALL-TOO-OBVIOUS MOVE IN SUPPORT OF THE DRV/PRG CAMPAIGN TO FURTHER REDUCE THE ICCS PRESENCE IN THE FIELD. THE GVN REACTED INDIGNANTLY TO A PRG OUTBURST IN THE AUGUST 31 TPJMC MEETING, BUT DESCRIBED THE TRANQUIL SEPT 4 SESSION OF THE DELEGATION CHIEFS AS A MEETING DESIGNED TO "RECREATE A CONCILIATORY ATMOSPHERE".

PART I ICCS

1. THE CHIEF HUNGARIAN MILITARY DELEGATE ANNOUNCED AUGUST 31 HUNGARIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM FIVE ICCS SUB-REGIONAL SITES: TWO IN REGION VII, TWO IN REGION VI, AND ONE IN REGION III. HIS REASON FOR DOING SO WAS ALLEGEDLY THE LETTER FROM AIR AMERICAN THREATENING CURTAILMENT OF SERVICE UNLESS THE ENCUMBERED BANK ACCOUNT WHICH IS PART OF THE AIR AMERICA-ICCS CONTRACT WAS REPLENISHED. HE PROFESSED NOT TO BE AWARE THAT THE LETTER HAD BEEN SUPERSEDED BY A COMMUNICATION FROM AIR AMERICA'S HOME OFFICE TO THE EFFECT THAT SERVICE WOULD NOT BE CURTAILED. THE POLES HAVE FOLLOWED THE HUNGARIAN INITIATIVE, AT LEAST AT SOME SITES. THE INDONESIANS HAVE NOT WITHDRAWN FROM ANY OF THESE SITES AND HAVE INFORMED US THAT THEY HAVE IN FACT NOW RETURNED ALONE TO THE TRI
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TON SIE IN REGION VII.

2. THE AIR AMERICA THREAT PROVIDED THE HUNGARIAN DELEGATION WITH A HANDY PRETEXT TO ADVANCE WITHIN THE ICCS THE DRV/PRG CAMPAIGN TO CURTAIL THE SIZE OF THE ICCS, ELIMINATE SOME TEAM SITES, AND REDUCE THE ICCS BUDGET. THE INDONESIANS BELIEVE THAT THIS INITIATIVE,

WHICH COINCIDED WITH DELIVERY OF A DRV NOTE IN TEHRAN URGING THE GOI NOT TO SEND A FULL 290-MEMBER ICCS DELEGATION, WAS ALSO DESIGNED TO IMPRESS THE IRANIAN ADVANCE PARTY WHICH WAS PARTICIPATING IN THE AUGUST 31 MEETING. IT WOULD APPEAR MORE COINCIDENTIAL THAT AN UPSURGE IN TERRORISM IN CA MAU AND MORTARING OF VI THANH (PART VIII) IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED THE COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS' WITHDRAWAL FROM THOSE REGION VII SITES.

PART II TPJMC

THE INCIDENT AT THE AUGUST 31 TPJMC CHIEFS OF DELEGATION MEETING TO WHICH THE GVN REACTED WITH SUCH PROMPT PUBLIC INDIGNATION APPARENTLY BROKE THE TENSION THAT HAD BEEN BUILDING DURING SEVERAL WEEKS OF ANTAGONISTIC AND UNPRODUCTIVE SESSIONS. TIRED OF BEING SUBJECTED TO REPEATED PRG DIATRIBES, GVN TPJMC DEPUTY CHIEF B/G HIEP COULD NO LONGER RESIST INDULGING IN A LITTLE NEEDLING OF HIS OWN. THIS CAUSED HIS OPPOSITE NUMBER TO LOSE HIS TEMPER, ACCUSE THE GVN OF HAVING SOLD THE COUNTRY TO THE AMERICANS WHOSE AMBASSADOR WAS ACTUALLY RUNNING THINGS, AND SHAKE HIS FINGER IN BG HIEP'S FACE. THE GVN PROMPLY AVAILED ITSELF OF THE OCCASION TO GAIN MAXIMUM MILEAGE FROM THE IMPOLITIC OUTBURST AND CANCELLED THE PRG SATURDAY PRESS BRIEFING WITH A WARNING THAT IR RESERVED THE RIGHT TO MODIFY THE PRG'S PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES IF ABUSES CONTINUED. THE PRESS, HOWEVER, WAS PERMITTED TO ATTEND THE PRG RECEPTION THE FOLLOWING DAY ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DRV, AND THE PRG FAILED TO REACT TO THE GVN CHASTISEMENT. THE GVN DEL ALSO FAILED TO SHOW UP AT SCHEDULED SESSIONS OF THE TPJMC SUB-COMMITTEES ON SEPT 1 AND 3 AND CANCELLED THE REGULAR LIAISON FLIGHT TO LOC NINH FOR SEPT 3. AT THE GVN'S SUGGESTION, THE SEPT 4 MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY THE CHIEFS OF DELEGATION THEMSELVES, BUT BEGAN AN HOUR LATE AT THE SUGGESTION OF THE PRG. THE GVN PRESS RELEASE ON THIS TRANQUIL SESSION WAS COUNCHED IN ANODYNE TERMS AND CHARACTERIZED IT AS DESIGNED TO "RECREATE A CONCILIATORY ATMOSPHERE". THE SCHEDULED LIAISON FLIGHTS TO LOC CONFIDENTIAL

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NINH RESUME ON SEPT 6.

PART III FPJMT

1. THERE WAS NO PROGRESS TO REPORT AGAIN THIS WEEK IN THE FPJMT. FRUITLESS DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUE OF BUILDING CEMETERIES AND MEMORIALS CONTINUES UNABATED. THE DRV CONTINUES TO LINK THE CIVILIAN DETAINEE AND MIA ISSUES.

2. THE JCRC OFF-SHORE CASUALTY RESOLUTION OPERATION IN THE HUE-DANANG AREA HAS BEEN EXTENDED UNTIL THE ONSET OF UNFAVORABLE WEATHER ASSOCIATED WITH THE NORTHEAST MONSOON OR SEPT 30, WHICHEVER IS SOONER.

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LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PART IV DRV ANNIVERSARY AND PRG IMAGERY

1. SPEECHES, EDITORIALS AND BROADCASTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CELEBRATION OF NORTH VIET-NAM'S TWENTY-EIGHT ANNIVERSARY FOCUSED HEAVILY ON REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTHERN ECONOMY AND "CONSOLIDATION" OF COMMUNIST-OCCUPIED AREAS IN THE SOUTH. WHILE ULTIMATE DOWNFALL GVN INVARIABLY FORECAST, SUGGESTION WAS THAT THIS WOULD OCCUR AS A RESULT OF INTERNAL PROBLEMS, AND GRADUALLY, RATHER THAN AS A PRODUCT OF SUDDEN

COMMUNIST MILITARY ACTION. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS IN THE NORTH ARE APPARENTLY TO CONCENTRATE ON AGRICULTURE AND THOSE INDUSTRIES SUPPORTING AGRICULTURE. HEAVY EMPHASIS WAS ALSO PLACED ON GETTING ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT OFF THE WARTIME FOOTING WHICH HAD ENGENDERED CORRUPTION, WASTE, INEFFICIENCY AND MISALLOCATION OF MATERIAL AND LABOR.

2. IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS, A COMMUNIST CHINESE FREIGHTER DELIVERED PRC AID SUPPLIES AT THE VIET CONG-CONTROLLED CUA VIET PORT ON SEPT 1. ACCORDING TO NCNA THIS WAS THE FIRST CALL BY A FOREIGN SHIP TO THE PORT SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE JANUARY AGREEMENT. THE COMMUNISTS ARE CONTINUING THEIR EFFORTS TO ENHANCE THE IMAGE OF THE "PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT (PRG)." THESE EFFORTS HAVE FOCUSED ON THE ALGIERS "NON-ALIGNED" CONFERENCE, WHERE PRG LEADERS NGUYEN HUU THO AND NGUYEN THI BINH ARE IN ATTENDANCE. COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA HAS ALSO HIGH-LIGHTED SUPPOSED ADVANCEMENTS IN COMMUNIST CONTROLLED AREAS, ESPECIALLY IN THE FILDS OF EDUCATION, CULTURE, AND HEALTH CARE. ABROAD, THIS PROPAGANDA IS DESIGNED TO SUPPORT THE VIET CONG'S PRETENTIONS TO GOVERNMENTAL STATUS AND, AT HOME, TO SEDUCE PEOPLE FROM GVN AREAS INTO COMMUNIST ZONES.

PART V MR 1

1. CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS (232) INCREASED BY 31 PER CENT DURING AGUST, AND BY THE END OF THE MONTH WERE AVERAGING TWENTY-TWO PER DAY-- THE HIGHEST RATE SINCE CEASE-FIRE II. MILITARY CLASHES
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WERE MOST NUMEROUS IN THUA THIEN AND QUANG NGAI, WITH A SMALLER NUMBER IN QUANG NAM. MAJOR ENEMY INFILTRATION OF SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT CONTINUED, AND THE NVA/PRG INCREASED OPERATIONS TO PREVENT ARVN FROM CONSOLIDATING ITS POSITION IN WESTERN THUA THIEN.

2. AT THE MONTHLY MR 1 COMMANDER'S CONFERENCE, BRIEFERS REPORTED THAT THE NVA/PRG IN QUANG NAM IS CONCENTRATING ON ATTRACTING CIVILIANS INTO ITS ZONE, BUT ALSO PLANS TO SEND RETRAINED LOCAL UNITS BACK INTO THE LOWLANDS. IN QUANG TIN, WHERE THE GVN'S POSITION HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN STRONG, VC LOCAL FORCES HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO USE TWO-THIRDS OF THEIR STRENGTH FOR TRAINING AND REAR-SERVICE ACTIVITIES. IN QUANG NGAI, WHERE THE GVN HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN A MAJOR CONSOLIDATION EFFORT, BOTH LOCAL FORCES AND THE NVA 2ND DIVISION HAVE BEEN BEEFED UP WITH REPLACEMENTS FROM THE NORTH AND ENEMY ACTIVITY HAS INCREASED. FURING THE CONFERENCE, LTG TRUONG STRESSED THE NEED TO COMPLETE RESETTLEMENT AND RETURN-TO-VILLAGE PROGRAMS BY THE END OF THE YEAR, TO IMPROVE USE OF RF AND PF, AND PARTICULARLY TO ELIMINATE ALL CONTRIBUTIONS BY SOLDIERS TO THEIR SUPERIORS.

3. ARVN ENGINEERS HAVE ABANDONED ANY FURTHER ATTEMPT TO COMPLETE THE ROAD TO THE OUTPOST ATOP BACH MA MOUNTAIN. RESUPPLY PLANS FOR

THE WINTER INCLUDE PORTERING FOOD AND AMMO FROM THE END OF THE COMPLETED SECTION OF ROAD UP THE TRAIL TO THE TOP--NOW BEING IMPROVED BY THE ENGINEERS. THE FIRST SUCH RESUPPLY TO THE RF COMPANY ON THE SUMMIT TOOK PLACE ON SEPT 3-4, WITHOUT ENCOUNTERING ENEMY REACTION. CONGEN DANANG OBSERVES, HOWEVER, THAT THIS IS AN EIGHT - HOUR CLIMB AND EXPECTS THAT IN THE FUTURE CONSIDERABLE EFFORT WILL BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE SECURITY FOR RESUPPLY COLUMNS.

4. COLONEL TAM, SENIOR GVN TPJMC REPRESENTATIVE FOR REGION I, REVEALED THAT THE GVN IS CONCERNED BY THE REGULAR VISITS OF ICCS QUANG TRI TO THE PRG ACROSS THE THACH HAN RIVER, ALTHOUGH INDODEL HAS DESCRIBED THESE VISITS TO HIM AS WEEKLY LIAISON MEETINGS FROM WHICH THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE RESULT. TAM REMARKED THAT HE WAS RECEIVING LESS INFORMATION THAN BEFORE FROM THE INDODEL CHIEF ABOUT PRG ACTIVITIES NORTH OF THE RIVER, AND EXPRESSED CONCERN AT INDODEL EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH CLOSER RELATIONS WITH THE PRG. THE INDODEL HAS IN FACT DRAWN BACK FROM EARLIER CLOSE RELATIONS WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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GVN AUTHORITIES IN AN EFFORT TO CONVINCE THE PRG OF ITS EVEN-HANDED POSITION. HOWEVER, DESPITE ACCEPTANCE OF PRG HOSPITALITY, INDODEL HAS ALSO REQUESTED OUR PROVREP IN THUA THIEN TO SUGGEST TO GVN AUTHORITIES THAT INDEDEL WOULD BE EQUALLY RECEPTIVE TO GVN INVITATIONS, WERE THEY TO BE OFFERED.

PART VI MR 2

1. HOSTILITIES IN MR 2 OVER THE PAST WEEK (AUGUST 29- SEPT 4) CONTINUED AT ABOUT THE SAME INCIDENCE AND INTENSITY AS THE PRECEDING WEEKS OF AUGUST; AN AVERAGE OF 16 INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED DAILY DURING THE WEEK RESULTING IN AN AVERAGE OF 21 ENEMY KIA, FOUR RVNAF KIA AND 17 RVN

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TOTAL OF 113 INCIDENTS, 29 OCCURRED IN BINH DINH AND 32 IN KONTUM. THESE PROVINCES ALSO ACCOUNTED FOR APPROXIMATELY THREE-QUARTERS OF THE REPORTED CASUALTIES. ACTIVITY IN KONTUM REMAINED CONCENTRATED IN AND AROUND TRUNG NGHIA VILLAGE AND OVER HALF OF THE BINH DINH INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN TAM QUAN DISTRICT. ELSEWHERE IN THE REGION, 12 INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN PLEIKU AND 11 IN PHU YEN WHILE THE REMAINING ACTIONS WERE SCATTERED AND GENERALLY MINOR. VNAF AIR STRIKES AVERAGED ABOUT 40 PER DAY OVER THE WEEK, WITH NEARLY ALL BEING FLOWN IN KONTUM, PLEIKU AND BINH DINH.

2. IN DIFFERENT AREAS OF MR 2, THE LEVEL OF HOSTILITIES CONTINUES TO VARY IN WAYS WHICH MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO GENERALIZE ON A

REGIONAL BASIS. IN THE NORTHERN PROVINCES, FIGHTING CONTINUED UNABATED. THE WEEK'S MAJOR ENGAGEMENTS TOOK PLACE IN KONTUM, BUT DID NOT PREVENT THE 42ND REGT, 22 DIV FROM REPLACING THE BATTLE-WEARY 45TH DIV, ELEMENTS OF WHICH HAVE BEEN MANNING ARVN'S TOE-HOLD IN TRUNG NGHIA. THE ROTATION, COMPLETED SEPT 1, MAY GIVE THE RVNAF ENOUGH OF A BOOST TO RETAKE ALL OF TRUNG NGHIA AND THROW THE ENEMY BACK ACROSS THE POKO YA KRONG BOLA RIVER, THOUGH OUR CONSUL AT KONTUM BELIEVES THAT AT BEST SUCH AN OPERATION WOULD

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TAKE SEVERAL WEEKS. IN BINH DINH, AND PARTICULARLY IN TAM QUAN DISTRICT, RVNAF ACTIVITY IN CONTESTED AREAS CONTINUES TO ELICIT ENEMY RESPONSE. IN CONTRAST, MILITARY ACTIVITY IN SOUTHERN MR 2 (BINH THUAN AND LAM DONG) HAS DECREASED TO THE LOWEST LEVELS SINCE THE CEASE-FIRE. THE QUANG DUC RF OPERATION TO RETAKE THREE OUTPOSTS IN THE OLD BU PRANG AREA LOST SINCE THE CEASE-FIRE (AUGUST 31 SITREP) HAS BEEN REPULSED. THE TWO RF BATTALIONS HAVE BEEN RECALLED TO POSITIONS JUST OUTSIDE THE BU BON CAMP, WHICH ITSELF CAME UNDER MORTAR FIRE SEPT 1.

3. THE ICCS REMAINS CRIPPLED BY THE INACTIVITY WHICH HAS BESET IT SINCE THE DEPARTURE OF THE CANADIANS. THE AUGUST 27 ENEMY SHELLING OF TAM QUAN DISTRICT TOWN WAS REPORTED TO THE ICCS AT PHU CAT PLEIKU, BUT NO RESPONSE HAS BEEN MADE AND NONE CONTEMPLATED. THE OFFICIAL EXCUSE IS THE LACK OF A FULL FOUR-PARTY TEAM. IN A BIZARRE INCIDENT WHICH WE HOPE BETOKENS NOTHING MORE THAN THEIR BOREDOM, THE POLISH AND HUNGARIAN DELEGATES IN BAN ME THUOT PACKED THEIR BAGS AND LEFT TOWN AUGUST 31, WITH NO EXPLANATION TO ANYONE ON THE SCENE,

EMBASSY COMMENT: THOUGH NOT IDENTIFIED TO US, BAN ME THUOT MUST BE THE REGION III SITE FROM WHICH THE HUNGARIANS ANNOUNCED THEIR WITHDRAWAL ON THAT DATE.

PART VII MR 3

1. DURING THE WEEK ENDING AT 0800 SEPT 5, THE WAR IN MR 3 CONTINUED WITH AN INTENSITY APPROXIMATELY EQUAL TO THE PREVIOUS WEEK--111

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LIMDIS

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2. IN PHUOC TUY PROVINCE, THE GN IS MAKING A MAJOR EFFORT TO HOLD OPEN ROUTE 23 FROM DAT DO TO XUYEN MOC. AT LEAST EIGHT TANKS AND SIX APCs OF THE 18TH DIVISION HAVE ARRIVED IN PROVINCE TO SUPPORT LOCAL OPERATIONS. ACCORDING TO THE SECTOR TOC LOG, FROM SEPT 2 TO 4 RVNAF CONDUCTED 21 SORTIES AGAINST ENEMY ENEMY POSITIONS IN THE VICINTY OF THE ROAD. ON SEPT 1, 5,000 PERSONS ORGANIZED BY THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN HAD DEMONSTRATED AGAINST COMMUNIST CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS ON ROUTE 23 AND PRESENTED A LETTER TO THE PROVINCE CHIEF CALLING FOR ACTION TO KEEP THE ROAD SECURE. CIVILIAN TRAFFIC IS PRESENTLY USING THE ROAD, BUT LOCAL AUTHORITIES ADVISE AGAINST ITS USE BY US CIVILIANS.

3. THE NVA/VC APPEAR TO BE STEPPING UP EFFORTS TO ISOLATE PHUOC LONG PROVINCE. IN ADDITION TO CONTINUING ATTACKS ON THE

PROVINCIAL CAPITAL'S MAIN AIRFIELD (ACCORDING TO G-2, ROCKETED ON AUGUST 29, 30 AND 31 AND SEPT 4), THE COMMUNISTS ATTACKED A CIVILIAN VEHICLE TRAVELING ON ROUTE 14 FROM QUANG DUC PROVINCE, DESTROYING THE VEHICLE AND KILLING ONE CIVILIAN. THIS WAS THE FIRST INCIDENT REPORTED ON THIS ROUTE SINCE IT WAS CLEARED TO SERVE AS A SUBSTITUTE LIFE-LINE TO PHUOC LONG FOLLOWING THE FIGHTING WHICH HAD CLOSED ROUTE 1-A COMPLETELY IN EARLY JULY.

PART VIII MR 4

1. MR 4 REPORTED 295 ALLEGED VC/NVA CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS FROM 0600 HOURS AUGUST 29 TO 0600 HOURS SEPT 6. THE GREATER NUMBER OF THESE INCIDENTS WERE ATTACKS BY FIRE AND HARASSMENTS OF ISOLATED OUTPOSTS; THERE WERE FEW SIGNIFICANT GROUND ENGAGEMENTS. AUOWEVER, THE 940 REPORTED GVN CASUALTIES WERE THE HIGHEST SINCE THE WEEK PRECEDING CEASE-FIRE II. EARLY IN THE PERIOD THE VC/NVA CONCENTRATED MUCH OF THEIR EFFORT DURING THE WEEK IN NORTHERN DINH TUONG AND IN NEIGHBORING TRI PHAP VILLAGE OF SOUTHERN KIEN TUONG. A BATTALION-SIZE CONTACT TOOK PLACE ABOUT FIVE KMS NORTH OF ROUTE 4 AND FIVE KMS EAST OF CAI LAY THE MORNING OF AUGUST 31, RESULTING IN SEVEN RF AND 26 ENEMY KIA. ACTIVITY ON A SMALLER SCALE OCCURRED SOUTH OF ROUTE 4 THAT AFTERNOON. MGEN NGUYEN VINH
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NGHI OPINED THAT THIS HEAVY FIGHTING RESULTED FROM VC/NVA ATTEMPTS TO PROTECT THEIR SUPPLY ROUTES THROUGH THE TRI PHAP AREA OF NEIGHBORING KIEN TUONG PROVINCE. THE 7TH ARVN DIVISION AND DINH TUONG SECTOR FORCES HAVE BEEN PUTTING HEAVY PRESSURE ON THE TRI PHAP AREA AND ON THE ROUTES THROUGH WHICH THE VC/NVA SUPPLY THEIR UNITS IN KIEN HOA.

2. IN THE PAST TWO DAYS, A RISE IN GROUND ASSAULTS, ATTACKS BY FIRE AND TERRORISM IN CA MAU, CHUONG THIEN , PHONG DINH, AND BAC LIEU SUGGEST THAT THE HIGHPOINT HAS SHIFTED FROM THE NORTHERN TO THE SOUTHERN DELTA, OR RATHER FROM VC MR 2 TO VC MR 3. THIS INTERPRETATION IS SHARED BY THE MR 4 G-2, WHO SEES THE HIGHPOINTS MAINLY AS VC/NVA ATTEMPTS TO KEEP THEIR SOLDIERS ACTIVE. HE DOUBTS THEIR ABILITY TO DO SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE, AND PREDICTS THAT THE VC MR 3 HIGHPOINT WILL LAST ABOUT TEN DAYS, AS DID THAT IN VC MR 2. CHUONG THIEN, WHICH HAD BEEN RELATIVELY QUIET MOST OF THE WEEK, AGAIN COMMANDED ATTENTION SEPT 4 AND 5 AS VC ROCKETS FELL ONTO VI THANH AND VILLAGES IN THREE OTHER DISTRICTS. THESE WERE THE FIRST ROCKETINGS OF VI THANH ITSELF SINCE THE CEASE-FIRE WENT INTO EFFECT JAN 28. THREE CIVILIANS DIED AND EIGHT WERE WOUNDED. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE JUNE 15 CEASE-FIRE, THE VC HAVE OVERRUN OUTPOSTS IN PHONG DINH PROVINCE. EARLY ON SEPT 4, ELEMENTS OF THE TAY DO I BATTALION OVERWHELMED A PF OUTPOST JUST 15 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF CAN THO. AT THE SAME SOMEWHAT TO THE SOUTH, WHERE PHUNG HIEP DISTRICT SHOULDERS AGAINST CHUONG THIEN AND BA XUYEN PROVINCES, ELEMENTS OF A BATTALION OF THE VC D-1 REGIMENT ATTACKED NEIGHBORING OUTPOSTS WITH MORTAR AND SMALL ARMS FIRE. THE 478 RF BATTALION POSTS

FELL SILENT ABOUT 0400 AND AN RF RELIEF COMPANY WAS UNABLE TO BREAK THROUGH LATER IN THE DAY. A SECTOR CAPTAIN WHO FLEW OVER THE AREA DESCRIBED IT AS SWARMING WITH VC. THE VC IN CA MAU GREETED SEPT WITH A STEP-UP OF TERRORIST ATTACKS. THE DAY AFTER THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS PRECIPITOUSLY PULLED OUT OF CA MAU, THREE JEEPS WERE DESTROYED BY PLASTIC BOMBS AND, THREE DAYS LATER, A CHARGE DESTROYED A CROCERY STORE AND SEVERELY DAMAGED THE HOMES ON EITHER SIDE. ONE CIVILIAN DIED AND SEVEN WERE INJURED. THE PROVREP REPORTS THA THE CITIZENS OF CA MAU ARE GROWING INCREASINGLY NERVOUS WITH THE ACCELERATION OF VIOLENCE IN THE AREA.

3. THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS WITHDREW THEIR TEAMS FROM FOUR DELTA
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REGIONAL SITES DURING THE LAST NIGHT OF AUGUST. THEY ABANDONED CA MAU AND VI THANH IN REGION VII AND HONG NGU AND MOC HOA IN REGION VI ON THE PRETEXT THAT ICCS AIR SERVICE WAS THREATENING TO SUSPEND COURIER FLIGHTS. BOTH POLES AND HUNGARIANS SAID IN CAN THO THAT THEY, AS SOLDIERS, WERE COMPELLED TO FOLLOW ORDERS, AND THAT THEY HOPED TO RETURN SOON TO THE ABANDONED TEAMSITES. THE POLISH AND HUNGARIAN WITHDRAWALS LEFT THREE-PARTY TEAMS IN ONLY THREE DELTA SITES: SOC TRANG AND VINH LONG IN REGION VII AND GIONG TRON IN REGION VI. ALL THREE TEAMS HAD ALREADY ABANDONED TRI TON JULY 23.

4. MR 4 COMMANDER MGEN NGUYEN VINH NGHI HAS ORDERED A NUMBER OF CHANGES IN DIVISIONAL AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY IN THE DELTA. THE 44TH SPECIAL TACTICAL ZONE (STZ) HAS BEEN EXPANDED TO INCLUDE KIEN PHONG PROVINCE. THE 15TH REGIMENT OF THE 9TH ARVN DIVISION, FOREMERLY STATIONED AROUND HONG NGU, HAS BEEN SHIFTED TO LONG MY DISTRICT, CHUONG THIEN, WHERE IT JOINED THE 16TH REGIMENT. THE 21ST DIVISION'S AREA OF OPERATIONS, WHICH ONCE EMBRACEDALMOST ALL OF THE SOUTHERN DELTA, SHRANK AGAIN AS GENERAL NGHI SLICED OFF BA XUYEN PROVINCE AND VINH CHAU DISTRICT OF BAC LIEU PROVINCE AND GAVE THEM TO THE 9TH ARVN DIVISION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 10 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON15994
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730963/abqcehsm.tel
Line Count: 528
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 10
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Jul-2001 by kellew0>; APPROVED <31-Oct-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIET-NAM CEASE-FIRE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT, AUGUST 29-SEP 4, 1973
TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS
To: STATE INFO BANGKOK
BIEN HOA
BUDAPEST
CAN THO
CANBERRA
DANANG
JEC PARIS

PEKING
JAKARTA
LONDON
MOSCOW
NHA TRANG
PARIS
PHNOM PENH
SEOUL
TEHRAN
TOKYO
VIENTIANE
WARSAW
WELLINGTON
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB
COMUSMACTHAI
DAO SAIGON AOSOP-OR
FPJMT SAIGON

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005